Beaded Critters

Complete instructions for 23 fun beaded creatures

For the artists whose projects are featured on these pages, beads bring out their whimsical side. Fun and fanciful, these designs will get you thinking with fresh enthusiasm about wirework, polymer clay, or off-loom bead-weaving.

While many of these critters can be worked up in a jiffy, others will truly stretch your beading skills. From the gorgeously realistic hummingbird on page 32 to the fantastical fish designs on pages 36 and 39, the more demanding projects are worth the effort. And don't miss our beaded amphibians. The selection will have you hopping to choose! Whatever piece you land on will likely be the first of many creatures sure to inspire wonder and admiration for years.

Easy step-by-step instructions and meticulous how-to photographs and figures will guide you through even the most challenging projects. Beginners should read the beading basics to get an overview of the essential techniques. You may want to try the off-loom stitches with large beads to get the hang of their rhythm. We also recommend that you practice the wire-working techniques with inexpensive craft wire before you tackle a project with precious metal wire.

Whether you choose to stitch or to sculpt, you'll enjoy bringing these wonderful creatures to life. Indeed, these designs are really just starting points. All the projects suggest myriad ways that you can concoct a creature of your own. We hope you'll be inspired to populate your own menagerie!

Beaded
Critters

From the pages of *Bead&Button* magazine

Contents

Create wonderful flying friends and creeping critters!

conditioning thread

Conditioned thread doesn't tangle as readily as unconditioned thread. Conditioning strengthens and strengthens thread and helps it resist fraying and separating. Use either beeswax (not candle wax or paraffin) or Thread Heaven to condition unwaxed beading thread like Nymo. Beeswax adds tackiness that is useful if you want your beadwork to fit tightly. Thread Heaven adds a static charge that causes the thread to repel itself, so it can't be used with doubled thread. All nylon threads (Nymo and Silamide, which is pre-waxed) stretch, so as part of conditioning, stretch the thread. Pull Nymo through beeswax or Thread Heaven after stretching it.

Knots

half-hitch knot

Come out a bead and form a loop perpendicular to the thread between beads. Bring the needle under the thread away from the loop.

Then go back over the thread and through the loop. Pull gently so the knot doesn't tighten prematurely.

surgeon's knot

Cross the right end over the left and go through loop. Go through loop again. Pull ends to tighten. Cross the left end over the right and go through once. Tighten.

square knot

1 Cross the left-hand end over the right-hand end, and then bring it under the right-hand end from back to front. Pull it up at least so both ends are facing upwards.

2 Cross right over left, forming a loop, and go through the loop, pass from back to front. Pull the ends to tighten the knot.

Loops

plain

1 Hold the jump ring with two pairs of chainnose pliers or chainnose and roundnose pliers, as shown.

2 To open the jump ring, bring one pair of pliers toward you and push the other pair away.

3 The open jump ring. Reverse the steps to close.
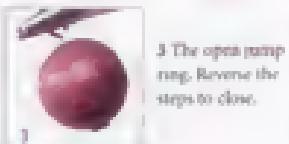
wrapped loops

1 Make sure you have at least 1/2 in. (1.2cm) of wire above the bead. With the tip of your chainnose pliers, grasp the wire directly above the bead. Bend the wire above the pliers into a right angle.

2 Using roundnose pliers, position the jaws vertically in the bend.

3 Bring the wire over the top of the roundnose pliers.

4 Keep the jaws of the roundnose pliers in the loop, reposition the pliers so the lower jaw is inside the loop. Curve the wire downward around the bottom of the roundnose pliers. This is the first half of a wrapped loop.
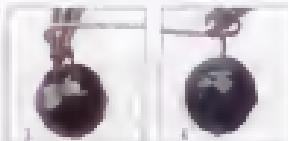
5 Position the chainnose pliers' jaws across the loop.

6 Wrap the wire around the wire stem, covering the stem between the loop and the top bead. Trim the excess wire and press the cut end close to the wraps with chainnose pliers.

Peyote

circular, even- and odd-count

1 String an even number of beads to equal the desired circumference. Tie in a circle, leaving some ease.

2 Even-numbered beads form row 1 and odd-numbered beads, row 2. (Numbers indicate rows.) Put the ring over a form if desired. Go through the first bead to the left of the knot. Pick up a bead (#3 of row 3), skip a bead and go through the next bead. Repeat around until you're back to the start.


3 Since you started with an even number of beads, you need to work a "step up" to be in position for the next row. Go through the first beads on rows 2 and 3. Pick up a bead and go through the second bead of row 3: continue till your begin to add and subtract numbers of beads, there won't be a step up; you'll keep spiraling.


peyote stitch rapid decrease

1 At the point of the decrease, don't pick up a bead. Instead, go through two beads on the previous row.

2 When you reach the point where you went through two beads, pick up one bead, continue peyote stitch.

peyote stitch rapid increase

1 At the point of the increase, pick up two beads instead of one. Pass the needle through the next bead.

2 When you reach the double bead on the next row, go through the first bead, add a bead, and go through the second bead.


join peyote pieces

To join two sections or the beginning and end of a flat peyote piece immediately, match up the two pieces so the "high" and "low" beads fit together. "Zip up" the pieces by going through each high bead, alternating pieces/ends.
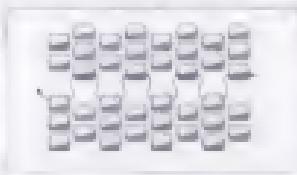
square stitch

1 String the required number of beads for the first row. Then string the first bead of the second row and go through the last bead of the first row and the first bead of the second row in the same direction. The new bead sits on top of the old bead and the holes are horizontal.

1 String the second bead of row 2 and go through the next to-last bead of row 1. Continue through the new bead of row 2. Repeat this step for the entire row.

decreasing square stitch

To decrease the number of beads in the next row of square stitch, backstitch through the next-to-last row, coming out the bead below where the new row will start. Go through the bead immediately above on the last row. Now begin the new row.

Simple wire critters

These whimsical earrings are simple to make and a great way to learn about working with wire. If you haven't done much wirework before, start with an inexpensive material, such as copper or craft wire. They move on to gold-filled or sterling once you're comfortable with the tools and techniques. Have fun following the templates drawn by our illustrator, Kellie Jaeger, or sketch a few figures of your own.

1 Choose a template and cut the appropriate length of wire. Bend the wire at a right angle about 1¹⁄₄ in. (3.8cm) from one end.

2 Using the bend as your starting point, manipulate the wire into the desired shape (**photo a**). Begin at the red dot on the template and use your fingers and tools to recreate the curves and angles of the design. Avoid bending the wire back and forth at any one spot or it will weaken and break.

3 Complete the figure by wrapping the wire tail around the 1¹⁄₄-in. end several times (**photo b**). Keep the wraps close to the figure.

4 With the ¹⁄₄-in. wire end, make a wrapped or plain loop (see "Basics," p. 4) above the wraps made in step 3 (**photo c**). If you make a wrapped loop, continue wrapping until the two sets of wraps meet. Trim the excess wire.

5 Once you have completed a figure, hammer it gently to harden the wire.

6 To embellish the figure, string one or more beads on 24-gauge wire. Wrap one wire end tightly around the shaped wire, slide the bead or beads into position, and secure the remaining wire end with another few wraps. A drop of glue will hold the wraps in place.

7 Open the loop on an earring wire and attach the earring loop. Make a second earring to match or complement the first. — *Mindy Brooks*

12 in./31cm

12 in./31cm

18 in./71cm

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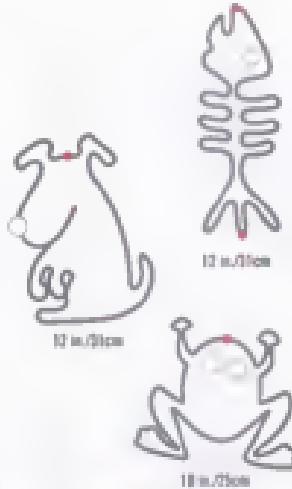
materials

- 18-gauge wire (see templates for lengths)
- 6-10 in. (15-25cm) 24-gauge wire per pair
- earring wires with loops
- assorted 2-3mm beads
- 4-G-Tipoi Cement
- **Tools:** roundnose and chainnose pliers, ball-peen hammer, and anvil

Dragonfly charms

Crystals, triangle beads, and dagger-shaped beads come together easily to make this dainty dragonfly pendant that always gets a great response.

1 String the dragonfly tail on the bead pin, alternating a crystal and a triangle bead 2 times. Cut the wire off, leaving ⅜ in. (1cm) and make a loop (see "Basics," p. 4).

2 To make the body, make a right-angle bend in the wire 2 in. (5cm) from one end. On the long end, string a triangle, two dagger beads, a triangle, the loop of the bead pin, a triangle, two daggers, and a triangle **(photo a)**.

3 Gently curve the sections of strung beads into a circle around a pair of your roundnose pliers so the long end of wire crosses the 2-in. section at the bend **(photo b)**.

4 Hold the circle of beads firmly and wrap the end around the 2-in. piece two or three times, keeping the wraps close. The first wrap should be right on the bend **(photo c)**. Trim the tail close and press it against the vertical wire with duckbone pliers.

5 String one crystal on the 2-in. wire. Then make a small wrapped loop above the crystal (see "Basics").

earrings

For earrings, make a second dragonfly. Open the loops on the earring findings (see "Basics") and hang a dragonfly on each one. Close the loops.

necklace

1 Cut two 2-in. lengths of wire and start a wrapped loop on one end of each.

2 Hook both loops on the loop above

the dragonfly and complete the wraps.

3 String a crystal on each wire and start a wrapped loop against each crystal. Hook a ball-ench (1.3cm) length of chain on each loop before completing the wraps **(photo d)**.

4 Repeat step 1, hooking a wrapped loop to each end of the chain. Then repeat step 3.

5 Repeat step 4, this time hooking a 6-in. (15cm) length of chain above each crystal.

6 String a split ring on one end of the necklace and attach the clasp to

the other end with another split ring. ●
— Irina Miech

Wire bug pins

Make your own wee bug pins—pin finding and all—with just two or three beads and a couple feet of wire. Make spiders, butterflies, moths, ants, dragonflies, or any other creepy critter you may be fond of. Once you've done the first one, you'll see lots of ways to customize your creations.

make the base—any bug

1 Place four 10-in. (25cm) lengths of 22-gauge square wire parallel to each other. Bend a 10-in. length of 24-gauge wire in half and straddle the group of square wires with it **(photo a)**. Wrap the 24-gauge wire a few times around the bundle of square wires, flattening at each half turn with flatnose pliers **(photo b)**. End with the wrap wires going in opposite directions.

Where the bundle is wrapped, bend the two outer wires perpendicular to the bundle. These wires become wings, legs, and antennae later on. Set aside.

2 I at an 8-in. (20cm) length of 26-gauge round wire and string two

or three beads that suggest the round head and long body of an insect so the wire comes out the center of it. On both ends, bend the wire down at a right angle to the beads. Make two more right angle bends with each end of the wire, forming a "step" **(photo c)**.

3 Center the beaded body wire on top of the bundle of square wires, passing the ends of the body wire through the two center wires of the bundle

4 On each end, secure the "step" portions of the body wire between the two square wires with a few wraps of the 24-gauge wire **(photo d)**.

make the pin

5 The body wire is now shaped into the pin finding as follows: at the bend end, trim the body wire to about 1 in. (1.5cm) past the last bend. With roundnose pliers, make a tiny loop at the very tip of the wire **(photo e)**. Bend the last 1/2 in. (6mm) of wire around your roundnose pliers **(photo f)** to complete the hook portion of your pin.
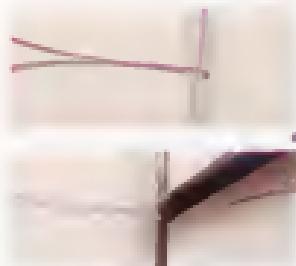
6 At the bead end, position the roundnose pliers approximately 1/4 in. below the last bend in the round wire. Loop the wire 1 1/2 turns around into one of the roundnose pliers **(photo g)**. Trim the wire with a diagonal cutter about 1/4 in. past the end of the critter. Use a whetstone or jeweler's file to create the point of the pin.

adding details—spider

The spider design is the simplest, with each end of the four square wires becoming a leg.

1 Begin by trimming the 24-gauge wire and securing it to the bundle of wires on the underside with a couple thread wraps.

2 Bend the inner two square wires on each end toward the middle of the spider. Fuss them over the perpendicular outer wires and bend them back toward the head and bind ends **(photo b)**.

3 Turn each leg wire to about ½ in. (1.3cm). Make a small spiral at the end of each one. To make a spiral, make a tiny loop at the very tip of the wire with roundnose pliers. Then, holding the loop with chainnose pliers, wrap the wire around the tiny loop. Reposition the pliers frequently to assure a tight spiral. Make a 90-degree bend in each leg and bend the spiral feet so they are perpendicular to the legs.

adding details—butterfly or moth

For butterflies and moths, the four square wires become the antennae and legs.

1 Bend the two bend end wires 180 degrees so they are now parallel to the body and going in the direction of the head **(photo j)**.

2 Wrap each of these wires twice around one of the head end wires, trim them, and bend them into legs. As an alternative, you could trim one and make a corkscrew shape with the other for a tongue.

3 Make spiral antennae with the bend end wires **(photo k)**.

4 Bend each end of the two outer wires to create wings. Secure the ends to the square wires running from back to front **(photo l)**. After wrapping twice, trim and flatten.

5 Make a small spiral with the 24-gauge wire at the very end of the butterfly. Trim the 24-gauge wire at the bend end and flatten against the body to secure it. **•** *Tara Hoch*

materials (per bug)

- 4 ft. (1.2m) 21- or 22-gauge square sterling wire wire, half-hard
- 10 in. (25cm) 24-gauge round sterling silver wire, half-hard or dead soft
- 8 in. (20cm) 26-gauge sterling silver wire
- 2 or 3 beads

Tools: flatnose and roundnose pliers, wire cutters, whetstone or jeweler's file

Dragonflies

These magical creatures made of beads, wire, and silk thread are easy and fun to make. Be creative: their variations are limited only by the available bead and thread colors.

First construct the dragonfly's body, then add the wing details. Finally, embellish the dragonfly with beads.

the body

1 Cut the wire into three 6-in. (15cm) lengths. Bend two of the wires at their centers around the dowel for the wings. Bend the third at its center around the roundnose pliers for the body (**photo a**).

2 Bend the wires up, perpendicular to the rest of the wire, 1 in. (2.5cm) from the each end to form legs.

3 Lay the body wire vertical on a work surface with the legs at the top. Place the wing wires perpendicular to the body, legs together. Tape the outer edges of all three pieces in position. Spread the legs out and push them down so they are at approximately 45 degrees to the body wire (**photo b**).

4 Wrap the end of the floss around the legs and tie to secure. Bring the floss over the closest leg. Wrap under and around the leg. Pull tight and move to the next leg (**figure 1** and **photo c**). Repeat from * around until each leg is held securely in place.

5 Hold the floss in position and pull the tape off. Hold the dragonfly in one hand with the legs toward you and wrap a figure eight around the wings. Go under the bottom of the right wing then up and over its top. Go under the body and the left wing. Bring the floss over the left wing and under the body and right wing. Come over the right wing (**figure 2**). Repeat this figure eight until the thread is built up and the wings have been secured, ending near the

tail of the dragonfly. The wings will meet over a little when pushed but should stand alone.

6 Wrap the floss around the tail until it's covered. Keep the wraps side by side —close and tight—(**photo d**) for a smooth finish with no gaps.

7 When you reach the tail's end, cut the floss from the spool, leaving an 8-in. (20cm) tail. Work half-hitch knots (see "Basics," p. 4) around the air at the tail's end to cover the metal. Keep them close together (**figure 3**).

wing detail

8 Thread a needle with 2 yd. (1.8m) of the finer thread. Tie one end onto the fibers along the side of the body inside the base of the wing. Run the needle under and around the wire of

the wing, turn around to the same spot on the way up one side. Run the needle through the loop that forms and pull tight. Run the needle under and over the wire approximately 1/4 in. (6mm) away and come through the loop. Repeat around the top of the wing (**figure 3**).

When you reach the opposite side, run the needle through the fibers on the side of the body and tie a knot. Begin a new row by going under the thread between the first two half-hitch knots of the previous row and making a half-hitch knot continue around. End by tying onto the body fibers as before. Work as many rows as needed to fill in the lacy wing. Leave a space in the center to give the impression of two wings. If the space is too small, consider
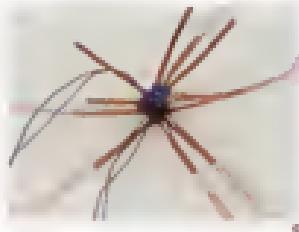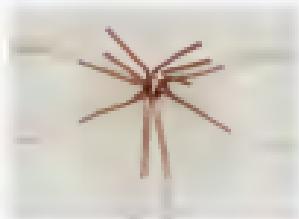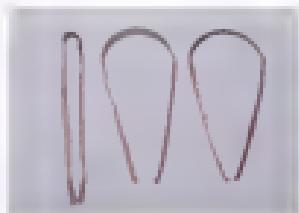
running a strand of beads down the middle to "split" the wings. Repeat on the other wing.

7 Tie a thread to the top center of the thorax. String three seed beads, an Evion bead, and two seed beads. Go back through the Evion bead and the three seed beads. Secure the thread, clip (**photo e**). String enough seed beads to make a circle around the beads below the head. Tie into a circle. Work a row of one-bead square stitch around the circle to fill in the space between the Evion bead and the body (**figure 4**). Now work two-bead square stitch around the thorax (**figure 5** and "Karen"). String 2-3 in. (5-7.6cm) of seed beads and wrap them around the tail (**photo f**). Sew into the floss, knot, and trim the thread. ●

– *Sharon Bateman*

materials

- 10 in. (46cm) 18-gauge copper or brass wire
- embroidery floss, approx. 2 vd. (2.7m)
- multi-colored opaque/silk thread for iridescent wings
- Evion bead or crystal
- 1-2g assorted size 14° or 12° seed beads
- 1 in. (2.5cm) bead
- beading needles, #12 or 13

Tools: wire cutter, roundnose and chainnose pliers, flush

figure 1

figure 2

figure 3

figure 4

figure 5

BEADED CRITTERS

Beaded wire critters

You'll love having these delightful garden creatures around. Hang them on a window, adhere them to picture frames, flower pots, and candles, or them on gifts, or add a pin-back to show off your new friend. Before you know it, they'll be everywhere!

Once you start making projects like these, individual beads will begin to suggest ways to use them. All four bugs are made using the same wire techniques. First, make the body, starting at the bottom and working up to the head. Then add the antennae and form the wings or feet. Finish by attaching a pin-back or using one of the other finishing options.

All the wirework is done with your fingers. Chartreuse pliers can be used to tuck in the wire ends, but don't use them to twist the wire—it will break

body

1 Cut a 36-in. (.9m) piece of wire and fold it in half.

Bumblebee: Gently twist ½ in. (3mm) of wire at the fold to make the stinger (**photo a, p. 15**). Then go to step 3.

2 String 4-6mm crystal or a small bead on one wire against the fold.

3 Working from the bottom up, string the beads onto both wires as follows:

Dragonfly: String Czech fire-polished and glass beads with silver spacers, the body bead, and the head bead (**photo b, p. 15**).

Butterfly: String the body bead and the head bead.

Caterpillar: String a repeating pattern of 10–12mm beads and rondelles as silver spacers followed by the head bead.

Bumblebee: String yellow and black

beads for the body followed by the head bead. If the bead strung next to the stinger has a large hole and slides off the wire, string a small bead that fits snugly against the wire twist before stringing the body beads.

4 Push the beads together, leaving a little space between them for attaching the wings or feet.

antennae

1 String a 4mm crystal on one of the wires about 1 in. (13mm) from the head bend and fold the wire over the crystal (**photo c, p. 15**).

2 Grasp the crystal and the wire with your index finger and your thumb. Twist the wires together between the crystal and the head bead to form an antenna (**photo d, p. 15**). Repeat with the other wire.

3 Hold both wires together and bring them down against the head bead. Wrap the wires around the neck, between the head and body bead (**photo e, p. 15**). Make two wraps and end with the wires in front. Don't cut the wires.

wings

If you are making a caterpillar, skip this section and go to the instructions for making feet.

1 Hold the wires in place at the neck, wrap one wire around the other, and separate the wires so they go in opposite directions (**photo f, p. 15**).

2 String a wing bead on one wire, leaving about ½ in. (3mm) between the wing bead and the neck. Bend the wire down along the back of the bead and wrap it around the wire coming from

Wire and beads

the body (photo 8). For beads that are top-drilled or have two holes, you won't need to bring the wire down against the back of the bead.

For the bumblebee on p. 12, string a 3mm silver ball after the wing bead and then bring the wire back through the wing bead so it will spin. Then in steps 3 and 4, make the wire loops larger that the wing beads.

⑥ Form a loop against the front of the head (photo b). Make another wrap to secure the loop.

❶ Make a large loop around the outside of the head and secure it with a few wraps (photo 1). End with the wire on the back. Do not trim the wire.

❷ Repeat steps 2-4 with the other wire.

❸ Repeat steps 2-4 to make a second wing below the first on each side. Do not trim the wire. It will be used later to finish the project.

❹ Go to the instructions for adding a pin back or other finishing techniques.

feet

❶ String a foot bead on one of the wires about 1 in. from the body beads.

Fold the wire over the foot bead and twist the wires together, ending with the long wire crossing the front of the leg (photo j). Repeat with the other wire.

❷ Wrap each wire in opposite directions between the body beads to the back. Twist the wires together for the length of the body bead below. Separate the wires and bring one wire around each side to the front and cross the wires between the beads (photo k).

❸ Repeat steps 1 and 2 to make additional pairs of feet. Do not trim the wire.

❹ Go to the instructions for adding a pin back or other finishing techniques.

pin back

❶ Look at the shape of your bug and decide if the pin back should be placed vertically or horizontally.

❷ Weave each wire that was used to make wings or feet through a hole on the pin back. Pull the wires taught and twist them together (photo l).

❸ Secure the pin back by weaving the wires up behind it and back down against the front made in step 2.

❹ Trim the wires about 1 in. (?mm)

materials

all critters
- 24-gauge craft wire
- pin back with two or three holes
- 3 4mm Swarovski crystals (antennae and end of tail)

dragonfly
- 10mm round or heart-shaped beads (head)
- 18-20mm oval or teardrop-shaped beads (body)
- 4 (12mm pressed glass leaves) (wings)
- 3-4 6mm Czech fire-polished beads (feet)
- 3-4 4-6mm flat silver spacers
- 4 6mm rondelles (tail, optional)

butterfly
- 6-10mm round or heart-shaped bead (head)
- 15-20mm bead (body)

- 2 12mm heart-shaped beads (wings)
- 2 15-20mm flat teardrop or oval beads (wings)

caterpillar
- 6-10mm round or heart-shaped bead (head)
- 5-6 12-18mm lampwork beads (body)
- 2-3 4-6mm rondelles or flat silver spacers (feet)
- 4-6 4-6mm heart-shaped beads (feet)

bumblebee
- 8mm round bead, yellow (head)
- 2 6mm beads, yellow (body)
- 2 6mm rondelles, black (body)
- 2 6-10mm heart-shaped beads (wings)
- 2 3mm round silver beads (optional)

Tools: wire cutters

Optional: chainnose and roundnose pliers

pass the bottom of the pin back. Use chainnose pliers to bend the wire ends behind the pin back.

5 Gently adjust the wings and tail

other finishing techniques

For a creature that will be glued to a picture frame, candle, etc., secure the wires with a couple of twists between the wraps for the wings or feet. Trim the wires just past the twist and use chainnose pliers to tuck the ends in.

For a plant decoration, continue twisting the wires to form a stem that can be inserted into a pot of soil **(photo**

m). Twist a thicker gauge wire for a longer, sturdier stem.

For a hanging critter, twist the wires together as described for the plant decoration. Then make a wrapped loop (see "Basics," p. 6). Bend the loop up and against the back of the bug **(photo n). 6**

Kelly J. Nordemus Miller

Bug kits are available for purchase. Contact Kelly at (585) 641-9578, kelly.designs@verizon.net, or www.kellydesigns.com.

Piñata pendant

Who can resist the festive appeal of a piñata? Create a party atmosphere by making your own fun, fringed pendant with polymer clay. Be bold with your color selection and don't limit yourself to mammals when deciding what to make. Why not make a fish, a bird, a lizard, or even a cartoon character? Enjoy!

This project uses cornstarch peanuts as armatures for the piñata's main components. The peanut in the body section is removed after baking so glass beads can be inserted to make a rattle. Plan for added touches according to the animal or figure you are making. Add a gold jump ring to a bull's nose, a bridle for a burro, or a saddle for a horse.

making ears and horns

1 To form the horns, roll two ⅜-in. (7mm) balls of conditioned clay. Roll the balls into cones and shape them to resemble the horn of the animal you are making—in this case, a ram.

Cut two ½-in. (1cm) wire lengths from a metal paper clip and insert them halfway into the horns' bottoms (photo a).

2 To form the ears, roll a ⅜-in.-long (1.5cm) oval of conditioned clay and slice it in half. Insert a ½-in. length of paper-clip wire halfway into the bottom of each ear (photo b).

3 Bake the horns and ears at the manufacturer's recommended temperature for 15 minutes and set aside to cool.

making the legs

4 Condition the black and three or more colored clays for fringe. Run a little of each color through the pasta machine on setting #6 for sheets about ⅛-in. (1.5mm) thick. Slice the sheets

into ¼-in.-wide (6mm) strips and set them on waxed paper.

5 Use an X-acto knife or tissue blade to slice fringes along the length of each strip (photo c). Slice straight down, do not drag the blade. If the blade sticks to the clay, clean it with rubbing alcohol.

6 Straighten two or more paper clips and cut four ½-in. (3.2cm) lengths of wire. Roll a ½-in.-diameter cigar of white clay and cut four ½-in. (2cm) sections. Insert a wire down the length of each section so it is almost flush with the bottom. Cap each foot with a small ball of black clay (photo d, photo e).

7 Peel a black-clay fringe carefully from the waxed paper. Wrap the fringed strip around a leg so it is flush with the bottom and trim it to make a boot at the seam (photo d, center right). Make a colored fringe slightly above the black one, overlapping it approximately ¼ in. (3mm) (photo d, center right). Position the second fringe's seam in line with the first. The second side of each leg will be positioned to the animal's inside.

8 Continue adding fringe until the top layer is even with the top of the leg (photo d, far right). Fluff a couple of the fringes from the surface to create a sense of movement.

9 Fringe the other legs. Bake them for 15-20 minutes on a layer of fiberfill to avoid flattening the fringe.
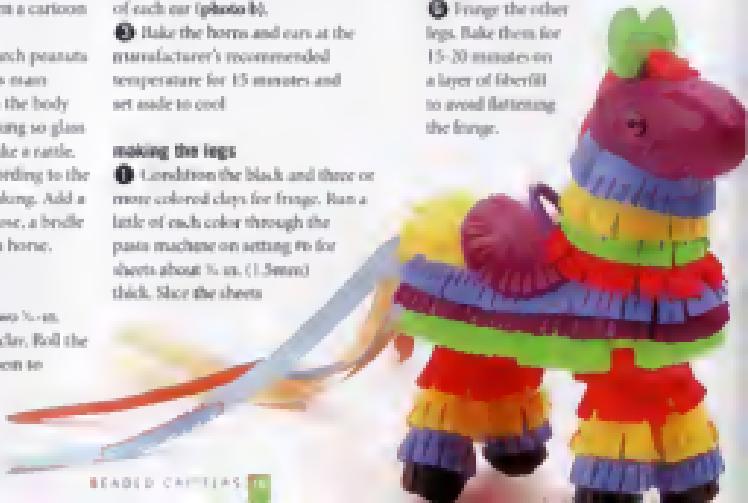
making the body

❶ Select two faintly straight cornstarch peanuts for the body and the neck. Trim the body peanut to 1 in. (2.5cm) and the neck to ¾ in. with an X-acto knife.

❷ Condition 1 2 oz. of white clay and roll a short on the 4/3 setting (about 2.5mm thick). Cut a strip about 1 in. wider than the body peanut. Center the body peanut on the strip's width and roll it up (photo e).

Trim the strip to make a butt join and smooth the seam (photo f). Turn in the ends, trim any excess, and smooth them. Repeat for the neck.

❸ Position the neck on the body section and reinforce the join with a thin snake of white clay (photo g, p. 18). Smooth the snake with your fingers or a mini roller.

❹ Roll a ball of clay for the head and shape it to resemble the animal. Add the curled ears and horns. Press two swirl beads into place for the eyes. Use the needle tool to carve a mouth and nostrils. Position the head on the neck and smooth the join (photo h, p. 18).

❺ To eliminate air pockets in the body, poke a small hole with a needle tool in both the neck and body. These holes will be covered with fringe later. Bake the body for 15-20 minutes.

❻ Once the piece is cool, dust the underbelly with a tissue blade (photo i, p. 18). Place it on a small bowl of water so the peanut will dissolve. You may need to coat reluctant bits of cornstarch out with the needle tool. Remove the figure from the water and let it dry completely.

fringing the body

❶ Cut the body according to the manufacturer's directions after fringing each section to avoid marking the fringe.

❷ Prepare fringe strips as in steps 1-2 of "making the legs."

❸ Use a needle tool to pierce or a pin vise to drill holes into the body for the leg wires. Test-fit the legs to check placement and wire lengths.

materials

- 1 2 oz. (56g) pkg. Premo pearescent clay, white
- 2-4 2 oz. pkg. Premo polymer clay in various bright colors
- 1 oz (78g) Premo polymer clay, black
- 2 pearlescent packing pheasants DO NOT substitute Sturdicomb
- Tube or PVA glue
- 6-12 size P-11 glass seed beads
- coordinating plastic coated paper clip
- standard metal paper clips
- wood paste
- liquid for baking
- rubbing alcohol
- 4 in (10cm) x in wide (3mm) satin ribbon or each of three colors

Tools: pasta machine or acrylic rod; X-acto knife; tissue blade; small point brush; wire cutters; needle tool; ten-step membrane pliers; Zap-a-Gap cyanoacrylate glue; bowl.
Optional: PolyPen Wand nitro rotor

Adjust and trim the wires if necessary.
2 Gently ease open the slit on the body's underside and press a small tuft of raw clay in the tail end. This will help balance the figure. Insert a few seed beads in the body cavity as it rattles.
3 Start at the tail end and cover the belly with short fringed strips running parallel to the waist. If the raw clay will not stick to the cured clay, brush a light coat of tube glue on the body and let it dry before continuing.
4 Wrap the body's chest, sides, and tail end with fringed strips running lengthwise (**photo j**). Cover the back as you did the belly, moving from the tail to the neck. Wrap the neck with layered fringed strips too.
5 Put a small drop of cyanoacrylate glue on each leg wire and place it on a leg

hole with the fringe seams toward the inside of the body (**photo k**). If the fringe has covered the leg holes, reposition them as needed.

6 Check the ears and hooves. If they are loose, remove them, add a small drop of cyanoacrylate glue to the wires, and replace them.

finishing

7 To make a ribbon tail, drill a small hole with the pin vise or cut a small slit in the body with an X-acto knife. Fold the 4-in (10cm) lengths of ribbon in half. Put a small drop of cyanoacrylate glue on the fold and push the fold into the hole with a needle tool (**photo l**).
8 To make a loop for hanging, drill a hole at the back or lower neck of the figure, whichever location provides the best balance. Make a small loop at the end of a plastic-coated paper clip (see "Basics," p. 4). Apply a drop of cyanoacrylate glue to the wire's straight end and insert it in the hole. String a cord through the loop ■ — *Diane Villano*

Beaded polymer fish

Combining beads with polymer clay is a fun way to make pendants with personality. To create your own, mold a polymer body and embellish it with clay accents, pearls, and gemstones.

Wire in all the beads, even if they are hundreds. Your finished piece must be durable as well as fabulous. How sad would it be to have an eyeless fish? If you're hoping to add character to your repertoire, look no further than this charismatic creature.

Mix custom colors, then mold the body, adding clay accents and wired beads. Bake the fins, add a patina, brush on varnish, and bake again.

prepare the clay

1 condition the clay by running each color through the pasta machine set on #1. Repeat a dozen times.

2 Mix the body color by combining 2 oz. of tan-green and Hershey-Kiss-sized

chunks of both ecru and gold. Run the clay through the pasta machine until thoroughly blended.

3 Make two new hues—green accent and gold accent colors—by adjusting the balance used for the body color.

4 You will also use gold clay straight from the package and gold clay crackled with foil. To add foil to the clay, run a little gold clay through the pasta machine set at #3. Lay the clay sheet on white paper, then place a sheet of gold foil on top of it. Pick them up from the paper and run them through the pasta machine set on #1.

5 Vary the four colors of clay together and adjust blends if needed (photo a, p. 20).

build the body

6 Roll and manipulate the green body clay into a fish shape (photo b, p. 20). Place it on clean, white card stock.

7 Smooth all sides. Pinch the tips of the tail into flattened points. Then adjust the mouth until you are pleased with his expression. (Or a wise fish a hat?)

8 When satisfied with the overall look, make a stringing hole. Push a needle tool through the top of the head, then insert the tiny gauge wire as shown in **photo b**.

add your accents

Fuss with the eye sockets much of the fish's personality relies on it. Use a solid-color tiger-eye bead that is darker than the rest of the fish. In fact, the eye makes the piece, so choose wisely.

9 Carve out the eye socket using your sculpting tool. Roll a little gold-accent clay into a ball. Place it in the socket and flatten the ball with your finger. Set your fish aside.

10 Center the tiger-eye bead on

2 in. (51mm) of 28-gauge wire. Twist the wire ends together using pliers. Continue until the wire twists finish against the bead. Clip with wire cutters, leaving a ⅛ in. (6mm) tail (photo c). Push the twisted bead, wire flush onto the clay ball and socket.

2 Form your flute over on the paper so start making the top fin piece. Roll green accent clay into a flat semicircle. Attach it to the back of the bead, blending for a firm connection (photo d).

3 Turn the fish over and work on the bottom fin, roll green accent clay into a teardrop shape. Flatten it and press it onto the body securely (photo e).

4 For the top fins, roll green accent clay into thin cylinders, flatten, and press to attach (photo f).

5 Make smaller strips with the gold accent and the folded clay, flatten them, and press them between the bigger fin strips. Similarly, add thin strips of both accent colors to the tail, bottom fin, and mouth, curling the strips as desired (photo f).

6 Next to the eye, add a ball moon of green accent clay, gold accent clay, then folded gold clay. Press the three additions gently but securely into place (photo f).

embellish and finish

1 Use all the colors, some shades or combined, to make little strips of clay and place them as desired. Alternate color placement to add contrast. Press and blend the fin strips where they meet the body. Repeat with the tail strips.

2 Cut tiny rectangles of folded gold clay. Attach them to your fish, using the tip of your craft knife to pick them up and place them. Cut a contrasting swirl out of the folded clay and place it at the tail's base. Add three folded squares behind the swirl (photo g).

3 String pearls and gemstones on wire as before. Push the beads onto the clay to accent the body (photo h).

Use needle-nose pliers to place beads as the right spots. If the wires aren't completely hidden, add a little clay on top for camouflage.

4 When satisfied with the caribou/ibex/moose, despite the body for texture, using a crochet hook or skewer. Then sign your name with the needle tool on a small disc of gold clay and attach it to the belly (photo 6).

5 Pick up your fish and the card stock, place them on the baking sheet, and bake according to the manufacturer's directions. Let cool slightly. When the clay is cool enough that you can hold it comfortably, remove the 16-gauge wire from the stringing hole by gently twisting and pulling on it with pliers. Let your fish cool completely.

6 Add a patina to the entire top of the fish by painting it with a mixture of burnt umber and burnt sienna acrylics (photo 7). Paint a quarter-section, then wipe off the paint with a slightly damp sponge. Only the clay's crevices retain the paint. Work quickly and carefully. If the permanence of acrylic paint makes you uncomfortable, practice on spare clay or omit this step entirely.

7 Coat the clay—whether you opted for the patina or not—with a clear, protective glaze. Place your fish on new card stock and set it on the bars in the oven. Bake at 200°F for 10 minutes to set the glaze. Remove and cool.

8 Your bead is done. All you have left to do is to name your fish. ◆

—Christi Friesen

Christi's polymer clay sculptures are available on her website www.cfriesengds.com. Contact her at P.O. Box 944, Tehachapi, California 93561 or at christi@cfriesengds.com.

Beaded butterfly jewelry

Colorful little butterflies perch between crystals in this pretty necklace and bracelet set. Make the wings first and then the bodies. Attach the wings to the body and add the antennae. Once the butterflies are complete, string them between repeating bead sequences for your necklace and bracelet.

make the wings

Begin the wings as a flower shape consisting of eight loops. Change the flowers into squares by stitching the edges together and then fold the squares into halves to make triangular wings.

1 Thread your needle with about a yard (.9m) of Nymo D. String on nine size 11's and tie into a circle using a surgeon's knot (see "Basics," p. 6).

2 Go back through the first three beads (see **photo a**). Pick up six new beads. Go back through the first three beads from the previous button (**photo b**) as well as all six of the new beads. Continue around until you have made six loops. On the seventh loop, pick up just three beads.

3 With needle in position after going

up three beads, pick up three beads to close the 8th loop and go down the last three beads of the first loop (**photo c**). You should have 8 spokes to your flower.

4 Holding the flower in your nondominant hand, take your needle up through three beads in any spoke. Skip the three beads at the top of the flower and go down the three adjacent beads in the spoke to the right (in the left for lefties.) Pull tightly to bring spokes side by side (**photo d**). This will create a three-bead point at the top of the spoke. Working to the right, repeat three more times until you have turned the flower into a square. Fold in half to make a triangle. This is your first butterfly wing. Stitch the sides together a top and bottom. Set aside and repeat until you have a pair of wings for each butterfly that will appear on your jewelry.

make the body and wings

1 Cut one of the picot beads in the middle of a wing, leaving on a tail of three bead and pass through a picot bead on the other side (photo e and thru the others on the other bead, and go through the second picot bead

on the first wing (**photo b**). Repeat this thread path for stability.

2 Ladder stitch (see "Basics") on eight more hex beads for a total of five beads in front and five beads in back.

3 To add the antenna, exit out of the top hex beads. Add four black and three silver size 14's. Skip the three silver beads and go back down the four black ones, creating a picot at the end. Go through the hex bead and repeat on the other side for the second antenna.

string the necklace

1 Thread two needles with 2 yds. of conditioned Nymo on each. Using both needles, string on 11 size 11' seed beads. Thread thru through the loop of one end of the clasp and go through the two end head again in the opposite direction.

2 String on five 4mm beads, or large flat bead, and one size 11'.

3 'On one thread, string on two size 11's, one 4mm, and two size 11's and go through the top hex bead of your first butterfly. Repeat the same pattern on the other side of the hex bead. Go to the bottom two hex beads on one side, string on two size 11's, one 4mm, and two size 11's. Go through the bottom hex bead and repeat this pattern.

materials

butterflies

- assorted size 11 seed beads
- size 8 hex beads, brown or black
- size 14 seed beads, silver and black
- beading needles #12
- Nymo D beading thread
- beeswax or Thread Heaven

necklace

- 5 large flat disc beads
- 14 6mm bicone crystals
- 42 4mm glass beads
- size 11 seed beads
- clasp

bracelet

- 5 6mm oval tin-painted beads
- 18 6mm bicone crystals
- size 11 seed beads
- 2 small ovals

4 Go back to using both threads as one strand. String on one size 11, one crystal, one size 11, one large flat bead, a size 11, a crystal, and a size 11. Repeat from * to * until all your butterflies are strung.

5 Finish the other end as a mirror image of the starting end.

bracelet

Make additional butterflies following the same steps used for the necklace. You will need at least five or six, depending upon the circumference of your wrist. Once the butterflies are complete, string them onto a double strand of crystals, fire-polished beads, and seed beads. For a clasp, sew snaps onto a small

panel of square-stitched seed beads.

1 To make the first square stitch (see "Basics" section), thread a needle with 1 yard of conditioned Nymo. Pick up a pair of size 11s (15mm) from one end, so the beads do not fall off. String 12 size 11 seed beads. These 12 beads comprise row 1.

2 Add another size 11 seed bead and go back through the last bead strung and the new bead in the same direction. Pull the thread so the new bead sits on top of the old bead and the holes are horizontal.

3 String the second bead of row 2 and go through the next-to-last bead of row 1. Continue through the new bead of row 2. Repeat this step for the

entire row. Make a total of five rows.

4 Make a second square-stitched section, this time 6 beads across.

5 With your thread exiting the top row of one clasp section, go through the top hex bead of a butterfly and attach it to the clasp section using square stitch.

6 Zigzag your thread back through the hex beads and, with your needle exiting the top hex bead, pick up the next bead, one 6mm crystal, and one 6mm bead, one 6mm crystal and five seed beads (as through the top hex bead of the next butterfly. Repeat across for the length of the bracelet. After exiting the hex bead of the last butterfly, square stitch it to the other clasp panel. Make sure your thread exits the second 6mm last hex bead of this butterfly before continuing.

7 Make the second strand to join the first. Attach snaps for the clasp, sewing buttons on one end and top snaps on other end. *Barbara Klann*

BEADED CRITTERS

Brick-stitch frogs

These little frogs will keep you hoppin happy all day. Put them on a pin, a necklace, or even make them into a pair of earrings. Declare your love for nature while making everyone smile. Make one and you'll want to make a whole rainbow full!

Begin by making a brick-stitch ladder that goes around the frog at its neck. Then make four triangles off the ladder. The two smaller triangles form a diamond that is the frog's underside. Two slightly larger triangles form a diamond for the frog's head and back. Finally, work the frog's legs.

brick-stitch ladder

❶ With 30 in. (48.2cm) of thread, string two size 11° beads leaving a 6-in.

(15cm) tail. Pass the needle back up through both beads and pull the top bead around so the two are side by side. The needle is coming out of the bottom of the second bead. Pick up a third bead and pass your needle down bead #1 then back up bead #3 (figure 1).

❷ Pick up bead #4 and pass the needle up bead #3 and back down bead #4 (figure 2).

❸ Continue adding beads like this until you have a total of ten beads. Sew the ends together by going through the first bead again to form a circle. Tie the working thread and tail together in a square knot (see "Basics," p. 4). Don't cut the thread.

brick stitch

❶ To make the underside of the frog, pick up two beads. Pass the needle under the loop of thread between the second and third bead on the ladder from back to front and pull tight. Sew up bead #2 and down #1 (figure 3).

❷ For the rest of each row, add one bead at a time. Pick up bead #3. Pass the needle under the next loop of thread from back to front. There are two back up through bead #3 (figure 4). Continue adding beads this way until you have a row of four beads. Each of

brick stitch

figure 1

figure 2

figure 3   figure 4

figure 5

figure 6

figure 7

the next two rows will have one fewer bead than the previous row. Step after the two-bead row. Strap one bead and run the needle down through the second bead in the row of two and through the edge bead back through the foundation row (**photo a**).

3 Stitch an identical triangle on the opposite edge of the foundation row.

4 Work a third triangle starting with a row of six beads on the foundation row and ending with the two-bead row. Join the top and bottom of the last by centering the needle through the last bead added in step 2 (**photo b**), then through the edge beads to the opposite side of the foundation row.

5 Fourth triangle, row 1 (bead): This is an increase row. Pick up two size 11°s and pass the needle under the first loop from back to front and pull tight. Sew up bead #2, down #3, and come back up #2 (**figure 5**). Add one size 8°, one size 11°, one size 8°, and two size 11°s.

Row 2: Work a row of six beads.

Row 3: This is a decrease row. Work two beads, skip a bridge (the thread between the next two beads) (**photo c**), and work two more beads. Pull tight to make the face curve.

Row 4: Work two beads into the last row by skipping the middle bridge. If the beads don't line up correctly, run the needle through both beads again.

6 Finish the triangle with one bead. Then run the needle through the edge and other beads as needed to exit a size 8° eye bead from back to front. String a size 11° black seed bead and go back through the eye bead. Work the needle to the other eye and repeat. Tie a half hitch knot (see "Basics") between beads and trim the thread.

7 Weave 19 or, (45.7cm) of new thread through several beads and exit the frog's side, coming out a corner bead on the foundation row. At a right angle to the frog, brick stitch four rows of two beads for an arm (**figure 6**). Put three fringes of three beads at the end for the toes. Repeat on the other side for the second arm.

8 On the bottom edge of the frog's back side, brick stitch the leg with three rows of three beads (**photo d**). Start the first row by going through the thread between bead rows (**figure 7**). Finish with two rows of two beads, and three bead rows. Repeat on the opposite side.

9 You have several options if you want to wear your frog as jewelry. To make a pin, place a drab (size 6° seed bead) on a stickpin and thread the pin through the mouth of the frog to support him. Or string him as a bead onto a necklace or earring. ●

— Sharon Bateman

materials
• size 11° seed beads in various colors
• 2 size 8° seed beads for the eyes
• Soutache in Nymo D beading thread
• beading needle, #12
• **Optional:** drab (6° bead) and a stickpin, pair of earring findings, necklace chain

Brick-stitch moth

This beautiful Prometheus moth, with its vivid reds and dots are bonding, makes a great beading project. To make a moth of your own, brick stitch the four wings. Construct the body out of felt and attach the wings in it. Finally, apply the fur and the antennae.

❶ With wire (91m) of waxed thread, make a brick stitch ladder (see "Basics," p. 4) following the pattern for the first row of a wing (**figure 1**). Brick stitch the rest of the wing following the chart. Make two of each wing.

To increase at the beginning of a row, string two beads, go from back to front through the thread loop between the first and second beads on the row below (see figure 5, p.35). To increase at the end of a row, work two beads, one

at a time, onto the loop between the last two beads (**figure 2**).

To decrease at the beginning of a row, weave the thread to exit the appropriate bead on the previous row (**figure 3**).

❷ Transfer the felt-sand body pattern (**figure 4**) to tracer paper. Pin it to a piece of felt and cut it out. Fold it in half and hand sew it into a tube, leaving the head end open. Fold the bottom end up and sew to square it off, stuff with fiber fill and sew the head closed (**photo a**).

❸ Sew the lower wings in place a little below the sides of the body toward the stitching. Stitch the two lower wings together where they meet in the center. Sew the upper wings

in place just above the lower wings (**photo b**).

❹ Cut a piece of rabbit fur the same size as the top of the finished body. Glue the fur on top of the wings and the stitching (**photo c**). If needed, glue on small bits of fur to cover the head. When completely dry, trim.

❺ Cut the bottom of two feathers the shape of **figure 5** (shown for size) for the antennae. Glue onto the head under the edge of the rabbit fur (**photo d**). When dry, trim if desired.

❻ Optional: sew a pin-back onto the underside of the body to wear your moth as a brooch ◆ — Kim Watson

figure 1

20pt ← attach

attach →

Beads

- ■ DB 65
- ✕ DB 221
- ⊠ DB 307
- ⊡ DB 310
- ▨ DB 322
- ▦ DB 203
- ▥ DB 355
- ▧ DB 371
- ▣ DB 653
- ▤ DB 721
- ▩ DB 771
- ▦ DB 173
- ■ DB 662

figure 2

figure 3

figure 4

Body

Head
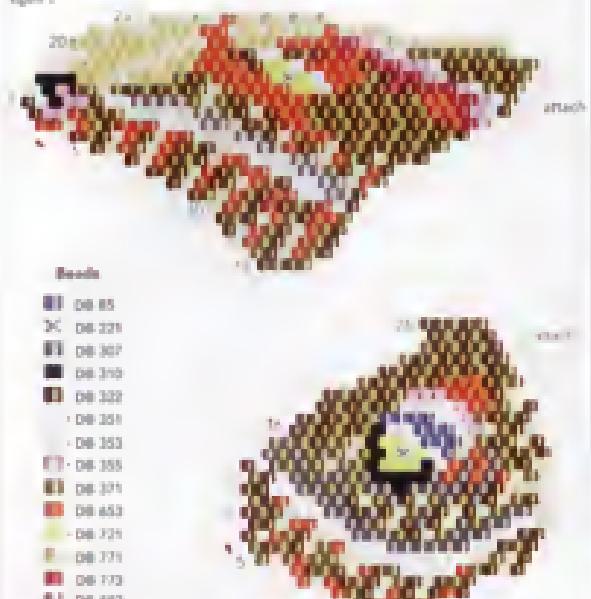
figure 5

materials

- 14 colors of Japanese cylinder beads
- Nymo D beading thread
- Beading needle, #12
- sheet of size felt
- eyelid fur
- polyester fiberfill
- tissue paper
- Thread
- E6000 or Tacky glue
- 2 buckets (5mo, ostrich, or agate)
- Optional: pin back

Fringed brick-stitch fairies

Silver lined gold ○
White pearl ○
Opaque lilac ●
Blue ●
Purple iris ●
Silver lined dark purple ●
Matte translucent dark rhodium ●
Lime lined red ●
Matte metallic gold ○
Ceylon light beige ○
Japanese 11° lilac ○
Czech metallic lilac opal ●
Czech 6mm bronze purple ●
Czech 2 x 10mm dagger purple ●

fairy 1
chart 1

These whimsical winged creatures can be made as pins, necklace pendants, or tree decorations. The double layer of fringe makes them especially festive.

Make these fairies with brick stitch, starting with the center vertical row. Turn the pattern on its side and work the center row with ladder stitch. Then brick stitch one side, using increasing and decreasing to complete the shapes and the separate sections of the wing. Turn the piece over and zigzag back to the ladder. Then work the other half of the figure.

weaving fairy 1 (chart 1)

❶ Using **chart 1,** above, stitch the center row with ladder stitch (figures 1–3)

❷ Stitch the next row to the right or left of the center with brick stitch (figures 4–5). Continue working that side.

❸ When making the scallops on the wings, finish one scallop, shaping as necessary, and then sew back through the beadwork to begin the next scallop.

❹ When the working thread comes short, zigzag back through the beadwork, changing direction several times before trimming the thread tail. Start a new thread the same way;

weaving onto the beadwork several rows back from where you wish to resume stitching.

weaving fairy 2 (chart 2)

❶ Stitch the body and wings separately as in steps 1–4 of "making fairy 1."

❷ After completing both sections, position the wings behind the body as desired and stitch between the center rows of the body and wings to secure them together. End the thread as in step 4 above.

30 BEADED CRITTERS

Off-loom stitches

- Silver bead cup ●
- Lined rose seed ●
- Opaque salmon ○
- Opaque lily blue lustre ○
- Lustre cobalt ○
- Blue ●
- Matte transparent dark beige ●
- Pale yellow pearl ○
- Silver lined gold ○

loop 2
chart 2
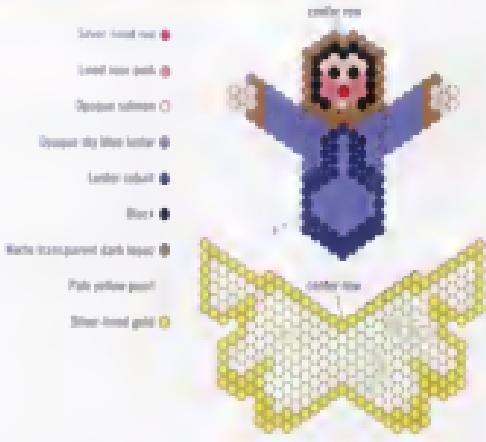
figure 1

figure 2

figure 3

double fringe

1 Sew through the beadwork so that your needle passes left to right through the left-hand edge bead on the next-to-last row (**chart 1** or **2, point a**). This is where you'll begin the top fringe row.

2 String the beads according to the chart, ending with a loop of beads: 18mm seed beads, a dagger bead, and three seed beads. Sew back into the

lower rondelle, up the strand, and left to right through the bead from which the fringe starts. The fringe is centered under the bead. Continue through the next bead indicated on the chart.

Repeat for the nine top-row fringes.

3 Turn the figure over and add longer fringes (extend the seed bead section at the top of each fringe) below the beads on the bottom row of the figure.

4 End the thread as in step 4 of "making lazy 1."

making a pin

Glue a pin back to the completed fairy or angel with E6000. When dry, cut an Ultrasuede piece to fit over the base of the pin back and glue it in place. This also stiffens and stabilizes the figure.

ladder stitch

Figure 1: A ladder of seed or bugle beads is most often used to begin brick stitch. Pick up two beads. Leave a 3-6-in. (8-10cm) tail and go through both beads again in the same direction. Pull the top bead down so the beads

are side by side. The thread exits the bottom of bead #2. String bead #3 and go back through #2 from top to bottom. Come back up #3.

Figure 2: String bead #4. Go through #3 from bottom to top and #4 from top to bottom. Add odd-numbered beads like #5 and even-numbered beads like #4.

Figure 3: To stabilize the ladder, zigzag back through all the beads.

brick stitch

Figure 1: Begin each row so no thread shows on the edge: String two beads. Go under the thread between the second and third beads on the ladder from back to front. Pull tight. Go up the second bead added, then down the first. Come back up the second bead. **Figure 2:** For the remaining stitches on each row, pick up one bead. Pass the needle under the next loop on the row below from back to front. Go back up the new bead.

figure 4

figure 5

figure 6

figure 7

increasing brick stitch

Figure 6: To increase by one bead at the edge of a row, zig zag back through the beads as the completed row to exit the bead just outside and below the first bead on the new row. String two beads and sew under the thread between the second and third beads once. Complete the stitch as in **figure 4 ●**. —*Jennifer Crouse*

decreasing brick stitch

Figure 7: To decrease at the edge of a row, zig zag back through the beads as the completed row to exit the bead just outside and below the first bead on the new row. String two beads and sew under the thread between the second and third beads once. Complete the stitch as in **figure 4 ●**. —*Jennifer Crouse*

materials

• Nymo D beading thread

• beading needle, #12

Optional: 2 in. (5.1cm) per hank, 1 × 10 square Ultrasuede 16000 glue

fairy 1 (purple figure)

Japanese cylinder beads as follows:

• **62** straw (inner gold (DB062)

• **183** white pearl (DB201)

• **33** opaque iris (DB158)

• **17** black (DB010)

• **204** purple iris (DB004)

• **2** silver-lined dark purple (DB609)

• **26** matte transparent dark chocolate (DB65)

• **1** silver-lined red (DB602)

• **6** matte metallic gold (DB322)

• **21** Ceylon light beige (DB204)

• **200** Japanese seed beads, size 11° lilac

• **36** 3 × 2mm Czech pressed-glass rondelles, violet

• **18** 6mm Preciosa glass leaves, violet

• **18** 15 × 3mm Preciosa glass daggers, violet

fairy 2 (blue figure)

Japanese cylinder beads as follows:

• **1** silver-lined red (DB602)

• **8** lined rose pink (DB070)

• **21** opaque salmon (DB106)

• **86** pale yellow pearl (DB1371)

• **120** silver-lined gold (DB042)

• **204** opaque sky blue luster (DB215)

• **54** bottle cobalt (DB277)

• **17** black (DB010)

• **18** matte transparent dark cognac (DB853)

• **200** size 11° Japanese seed beads, gold

• **33** 3 × 2mm pressed-glass rondelles, light blue

• **18** 6mm round glass beads, blue

• **18** 15 × 3mm pressed-glass daggers, dark blue

alternative ladder-stitch start

Here's an easy way to make a ladder when you're starting a piece in brick stitch. String the required number of beads. Go back through the second bead from the needle in the same direction as the first pass **(photo a)**. Pull the thread tight and coax the beads to lie side to side. Continue this way through each bead, always passing the thread toward the needle and into the needle of the beads **(photo b)**. When you're done, you can reinforce the ladder by working your thread up and down through the beads.

Lara1127@aol.com

Square-stitch hummingbird

Give life to your beads by stitching them into a pretty little hummingbird like this one: combine both tubular and flat square stitch to make the bird and then string it onto a necklace.

head

Row 1: Start with a 36-in./.9m- length of thread to longest string four real beads then four green beads and tie onto a circle with a surgeon's knot (see "Basics," p. 9). String one teal and push it into the center of the circle. Go back through the fourth and third teal beads **(figure 1, a-b)**. Go through the center bead and the second and first green beads **(figure 1, b-c)**. This is the top of the head.

Row 2: You now build increasing tubular rows of square stitch to form the head, working **figure 2** clockwise. String one teal and three green. Go through the second green bead on row 1 and the last two green beads of row 2 **(figure 2, a-b)**. String three green and one teal. Skip a bead on row 1 and go through the last green bead and the last two beads strung **(figure 2, b-c)**. String four teal, skip a bead on row 1, and go through the next bead and the last two beads strung **(figure 2, c-d)**. String four teal, skip a bead on row 1, and go through the next bead and the last two beads strung **(figure 2, d-e)**.

Row 3: The head will start to cup with this row. Add seven greens as shown **(figure 3, e-f)**. Then add two teal **(figure 3, f-g)**, three black and one teal **(figure 3, g-h)**, one teal and three black **(figure 3, h-i)**, and two teal. End by going through the first bead of this row **(figure 3, i-j)**.

figure 1

Row 4 Add eight green in two stitches (**figure 2, j-k**), three total (**figure 2, k-l**), eight black in two stitches (**figure 2, l-m**), and three teal and a green (**figure 2, m-n**).
Row 5 To add the eyes, pick up thread snug. Go through the first six greens on row 4, then drop down to row 3 and go through two greens, two teal, and one black; add a silver-lined white slug-like black; go through a black, two teals, and a black; add another silver-lined white slug-like black; go through two teals and two greens on row 3. Pull back to row 5 and then go through four more teals on row 4 (**figure 3, a-b**).

figure 2

break

Row 1 Turn the head to the black beads face your dominant hand. Add eight black's beads in three stitches (**figure 4, a-b**).
Row 2 Teal and seven black over the black beads to add eight more black beads in three stitches (**figure 4, b-c**).
Row 3 Now you have a hummingbird head with a wide, flat beak. Numbering the beads opposite to where the thread exits, go through beads 1-4 (**figure 4, c-d**) and pull the thread tight to line the beads up as shown in figure 4a and turn the head over. Keeping the thread tight, string 14 black beads. Skip the last bead of go back through 13 (**figure 4, d-e**). Go through beads 5-6, 2, and 1 (**figure 4, e-f**). Reinforce the beak by going through #8-5 and the 14 beak beads. Skip the end bead and come back through the 13 beak beads, #4, 3, 7, and 8 (**figure 4, f-g**). The head is complete

figure 3

belly

Row 1 Hold the head upside-down with the beak pointing toward you. The tail loops on figure 5 show the existing thread loops. String three red, sewing from inside to outside, catch the thread between the black and teal beads (bend row 4) on the right. Sew from outside to inside through the loop between the #4 beak bead and the black bead to its right. Go back through the last two red beads

figure 4

(**figure 5, a-b**). Add one white and two teal (**figure 5, b-c**), ten greens in three stitches (**figure 5, c-d**), and two teal and one white (**figure 5, d-e**). String two red and sew from inside to outside under the thread between beak beads #1 and 6. Then sew from outside to inside under the thread between the left hand black and teal bead on row 4 and go back through the last two red beads (**figure 5, e-f**). String one red and go through the first three red beads as this row (**figure 5, f-g**).
Row 2 Add two white and two teal, eight greens in two stitches, and two teal and two white. This add eight red in three stitches. Go through the first white bead to end the row (**figure 6, a-b, p. 34**).
Row 3 Work in shown in **figures 6, b-c**.
Row 4 follow **figures 6, c-d**.
Row 5 follow **figures 6, d-e**.
Row 6 follow **figures 6, e-f**.
Row 7 follow **figures 6, f-g**.
Row 8 follow **figures 6, g-h**.

figure 4a

lower belly

Starting with row 9, the belly begins to get smaller. Read the rows counter-clockwise from the outer circle in.
Row 9 Work **figures 7, a-b, p. 34** (first inside row)
Row 10 Work **figure 7, b-c**.
Row 11 Work **figure 7, c-d**.
Row 12 Work **figure 7, d-e**.
Row 13 Work **figure 7, e-f**.
Row 14 Work **figure 7, f-g**.
Row 14a To add the last row the headwork as you do the eyes, go through the next green on row 14, the second green on row 15, and string three amber blue two beads on row 13, go through three teal, and string three amber. Skip two beads on row 15, go through the middle green, the next

figure 5
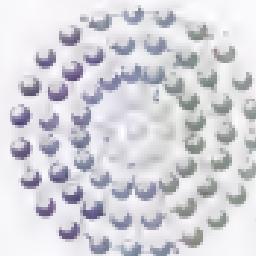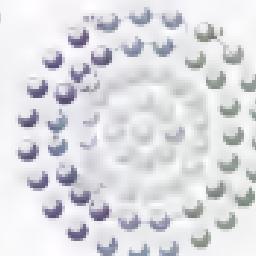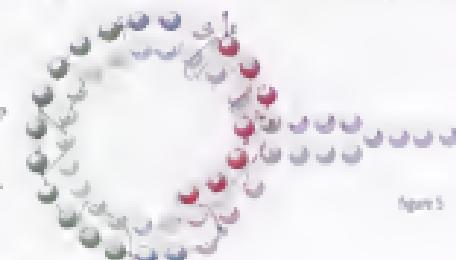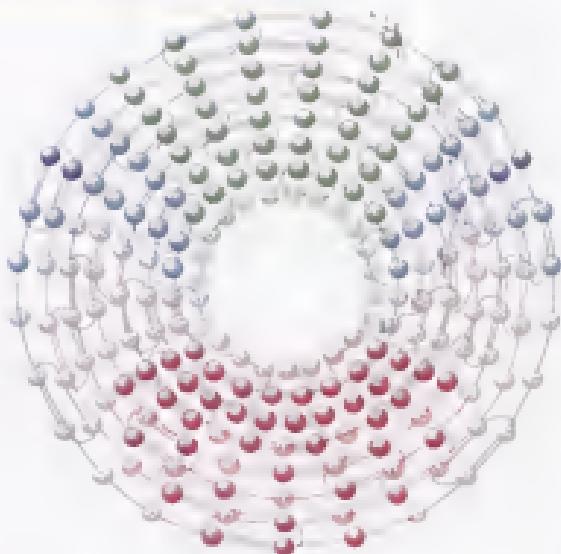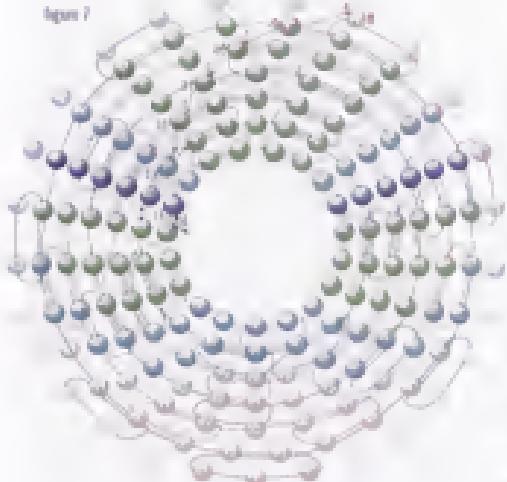
green on row 14, and the adjacent black (**figure 7a,p-b**). If desired, stuff the bird beads lightly with fiberfill.

Row 15: Work figure 8 (see right) at a-b.

Row 16: Work **figure 8**, b-c.

Row 17: Work **figure 8**, c-d.

Row 18: Work **figure 8**, d-e.

Row 19: This fills in the bottom of the belly. Snug three black and go through the third and fourth black beads from the left. Go through the first black, string then red, green, ?od. ? o through the last two blacks, string and thread the green and red (**figure 8a, e-b**).

tail

1 Weave the thread up the beads on the back of the bird as shown in **figure 9, a-b**. The thread exits between the black bead and the first green bead on the sale on row 15 (for feet row).

2 Add the side tail fringes (**figure 9, b-c**).

3 Add the three bottom fringes (**figure 9, c-d**).

4 Work the other side fringes (**figure 9, e-b**). End the thread.

necklace and wings

Row 1: The necklace is the first wing row. Start with about a yard of thread and tie a bead or large knot near the end so the beads don't fall off. String 10-12 in (25-30 cm) of black beads (the desired length for half the necklace).

String one white, four grav, 15 black, six teal, six green, two white, and two
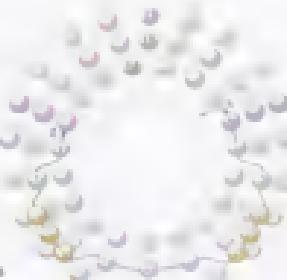
figure 9

gray. Go through the center six green beads on the back of belly row 2 (the row with two white beads on each side— **figure 10, a-b**). String the same pattern in reverse for the other wing and end with the same length of black beads. Slide the beads down to the tails are at least 2 in. (5cm) long. Tie both the beads together tightly with a surgeon's knot. Weave in the ends and cut.

Note: The red lines on **figure 10** *indicate where your needle exits the back for the wing attachment.*

Row 2: Bring a new thread out of the back between the left-faced green and teal beads. String one gray and two whites, count down two beads on the wing row, go through two and go back through the last two beads added. For the rest of the row add beads as shown. End the new by adding one white (**figure 10, c-d**). Skip the white bead and go back through all the beads on the new wing row and the green belly bead that you existed to begin the row. Drop down one row and exit the green head (**figure 10, d-e**).

Rows 3-12: Follow the thread path shown. Remember to drop down one green bead on the body to begin each row. Also notice the variation in the thread path at the ends of rows 11 and 12.

Work the other wing to match. ◆ *Dragonfly cover illustrations by Terri Field*

figure 10

figure 8

figure 8a

materials

- size 11° seed beads: 3.5g each of 9 colors: teal, green, black, silver-lined white, red, white, pink, amber-gray
- beading needles: #12 or 13
- Nymo B or D or Silamide
- beeswax or Thread Heaven for Nymo
- **optional:** fiberfill for stuffing

color key

○	white
●	amber
●	black
●	red
●	gray
●	green
●	teal
●	pink

Tubular peyote fish

An article on hollow peyote-stitch beads was the starting point for these charming peyote-stitch beaded fish.

To make your own, start by using the chart on p. 38. After that, make your own fish to suit your taste. You can

shape them to look like real fish or use flat beads for the fins, tails, and eyes to make them as fantastic as you like. After you've made a few fish, you'll learn why fish travel in large schools—because it's impossible to make just one

Begin your fish by working tubular peyote stitch to create its body (see "Basics," p. 6). Then complete either the head or tail end with no decreases. Start here and follow the steps below to work the head and mouth.

Body

String one 4mm bead in the center of your thread, and string 1 and 2 into your other thread to begin row 3, working toward the head. There will be a step-up at the end of each row (where you've added the last bead, go through the next two beads—**photo a.**) Work the ten body rows toward the head's head, end with a 4mm bead—by completing rows 8 and 9.

Make the head end first. That way, if you don't like the shape the mouth is taking, you can turn it into the tail and work the head at the other end.

If you're going to need to add thread, try to stop the old thread after adding the last bead before the "step up." This way the new coil won't start unraveling on the circle.

Head decreases

d In row 12, put that beads on each side of the point on the side patterns and the center 1/2 ball—then hefty background and then go through two beads—**photo b.** You also work the first decrease on the side of the point on the side pattern (**photo c.**) Work similar decreases on the other three hefty background stitches.

b Instead of beginning row 13 with a step up, begin with a decrease by going through both then and bead on each side of the point on the side pattern (**photo d.**) Work similar decreases on the other and center of the two seed beads on the front of the head.

c When you get to the decrease on the left side, because you're using smaller beads than your other beads, go through your bead on each side of—**photo a.**

You've now got to the decrease on the left, place one background bead down, then go through two beads at the sides. Tie to finish with a ring with a turquoise knot (see "Basics"), leaving about one bead's worth of slack, and go through a second or bead. Next, start the head at the bottom. Finally, decorate your fish with eyes, fins, and a tail.

Fins

Either the fish body is hollow, you may want to stuff it tightly with a little fiberfill or ballast it with some larger fibrous seed beads or pieced glass beads.

It's a good idea to prepare for a decrease on the row before by using two 4mm beads on the two sides that face the "step up." This way you can thread the next coil and reach on each row decreases on the circle.

b On row 11, put two than seed beads (green) in beads at each edge) on each side of the center belly. This makes the decrease on the next row go smoothly.

seed bead color to make the location clear later—13 beads added on row 14.

d On row 15, work two than seed beads on each side of the front head on each side. Decrease there on row 14—11 beads added on row 15.

e Start the bottom edge of the fish and begin a matching bottom lip at the center bottom of row 19

Off-loom stitches

❶ After adding the first top lip bead on row 20, go through the row 19, 18, and 19 lip beads (**photo g**) and add the last top lip bead.

❷ The top up comes just after adding the third bead on the lower lip. Bring your needle through the existing beads on row 20 without adding beads until you reach the place where you need to add the last two lower lip beads. Add them.

❸ If plenty of thread remains, work it through the body so it exits bead #1 in the direction of the thread tail (the opposite direction from the way you were working).

materials

- turt3” or Japanese cylinder beads in one color for body/background
- 3-5 colors size 11° seed beads, in varied textures and finishes
- tweezing needles, #12-13 or sharps
- Nymo D, B, or O beading thread to fit through beads chosen
- beeswax or Thread Heaven
- bins—pressed glass daggers, accent shells, seeds, stones, etc.
- eyes—pucca shells, disks, flowers, beads, tiny teardrops, etc.

rear body and tail decreases

❶ Go through the last seed bead on row 2 (#14) and work the remaining seven body rows. When you work the seventh row, be sure to put this seed beads on each side of the point beads.

❷ The rear half of the fish has three spaced decreases around the body: the two on the sides that you started in row 7 and one on the center body line that starts on row 8. Place two thin seed beads on the belly in line with the first beads on the front belly decrease.

❸ Start another pair of tail decreases on row 10 by adding that seed beads on each side of the point on both sides. Finish these two decreases on row 11.

❹ Start another pair of aligned tail decreases on row 13. Work through row 15—ten stitches remain.

tail, fins, and eyes

❶ To weave the key tail beads together, fold the tail opening so that it is vertical. Sew through the beads on the last row until you reach the top or the bottom. Then alternately sew through an “up” bead on one side and an “up” bead on the other (**photo h**) until you've zipped the tail opening closed.

❷ Finish the tail by sewing on fringe, dagger beads, or any kind of tail-shaped beads. (You can also add any tail-shaped bead to the trim in the beadwork.)

❸ Sew loops of beads or fin-shaped beads on both sides on the four places marked with an ✗ on the pattern as well as along the center back for the top fin (**photo i**).

❹ Finish with small bottoms, bends, tiny teardrops, or rings of small beads for the eyes. Don't be afraid to try something new. Have fun with your fish — and the more you do, the better will follow. —George McMillan, illustrations by Terri Field
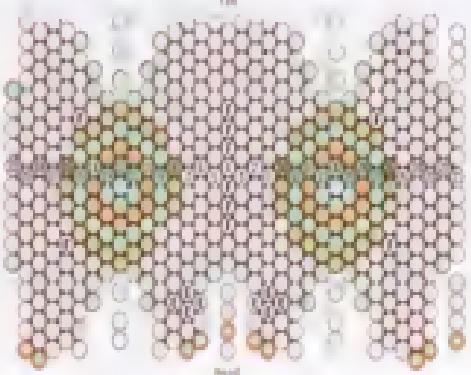
Multi-stitch fish

Make a necklace with three fun fish and practice three different stitches while you're at it. The body of the fish is tubular peyote stitch with both increasing and decreasing; the top fin is a square stitch, the side fins are right-angle weave, and the tail and bottom fin are flat peyote stitch.

Start at the middle of the body, and you work toward the tail. After completing the tail, resume work at the middle of the body in the mouth. Then finish up with the fins and eyes. Use a stop bead as a marker to show you where to begin the front half of the fish. Peyote decreases (see "Basics," p. 4) in the back section pull the fish into an oval and uses a triangle in the front belly.

fish body (rear half)

Rows 1 & 2: String a contrasting color stop bead to mark the top center of the back. Leaving a 6 in. (16 cm) tail, go back through the stop bead in the same direction to anchor it. String 16 (blue 10s) — 8 light blue (b), 14db (a) through the first db bead to join the circle.

Row 3: Work peyote stitch around the circle, adding beads in the following order: 1 yellow (c), turquoise (c), 6b, 3c (photo a, p. 40).

Row 4: [...] the eight beads two turquoise the net four, the red bead, and the eight beads three [...] (photo b, p. 40).

Row 5: 2b, 5a, 5b, 5b, 1b, 4t, 4t, 1b.

Row 6: 2a, 2t, 3t, 3b, 2b, 2b, 2g, 2t.

Row 7: 2s, 2g, 5db, 4s, 5db, 2g, 2t.

Row 8: 3g, 2s, 4s, 4s, 3s, 2g, 2g, 1s.

Row 9: 4g, 3t, 2b, 3s, 3s, 2b, 2g.

Row 10: 4g, 2t, 3t, 3s, 3s, 5b, 2g.

Row 11: 4s, 2s, 1b, 5db, 5db, 1b, 4s, 5db.

Row 12: 2s, 5db, 6db, 5db, 2g, 2s.

Row 13: 2g, 3t, 2b, (t(er adding the second light blue bead, go through the next two beads to make a decrease— **photo b, p. 40**: 2b, 5t, 2g, 1s.

Row 14: 2b, 3t, 1t, 4t, 5db.

Row 15: 1b, [...]

Row 16: 2a, 1db, 1g.

Row 17: 2g, 1t, db, side, 4db, dbs, 4s, 5db, 3t, 4s, 6db, 4b.

Row 18: 4b, 1db, abc, 5db, 2db, 2i.

Row 19: 1m.

Row 18: Make a vertical decrease by squeezing the top 6 beads together (three per side). Go through the last bead on each row of rows 1 and 2 three times, string one bead and bead heads. Make sure the center top of the seam is in line with the marked start bead on row 1 so the fish's back will be straight. With both peyote stitches onto the remaining beads. After adding the eighth bead, go through the last 1 and the first db (**photo d, p. 41**).

Row 19: [...]

Row 20: Zigzag the seam closed, making sure the beads are distributed evenly on both sides.

Rows 1 & 2: 2s, 2g, 5db, 4s, 5db, 2g, 2s.

Row 3: 4g, 2t, 3t, 3s, (after adding the second light blue bead go through the net two beads to make a decrease— **photo a, p. 40**: 2s, 3s, 2t.

Row 4: 4g, 3s, 3s, 4t, 5t, 3g, 1s.

Row 5: Go through the flat db bead head through to join the circle.

Row 6: 4g, 5s, 2t, 3t, 3s.

Row 7: 4s, 1b, 5db, 5db, 1b, 4s, 5db.

Row 8: 2s, 5db, 6db, 5db, 2g, 2s.

Row 9: [...]

Row 10: 4g, [...]

tail

Rows 1 & 2: With the thread exiting the bottom edge of the seam, string 8db.

Row 3: Go through the third to the last bead to start the row. Peyote stitch 3t, then go through the second bead on the body seam from bottom to top to secure the tail to the body (photo e, p. 41).

Row 4: Work from the far end of the tail by working partial rows at the outside edge of the tail. Work 2db then go back to the edge of the tail through the previous row of beads. End with the thread exiting the next-to-the-last bead on the edge. Then go through the last bead to start another row (photo f, p. 41).

Row 5: lab worked as a dec by going through 2db on the previous row. 2t, then go through the nearest body bead.

Row 6: 2s, 1db.

Row 7: Secure the thread by tying a half-hitch knot (see "Basics") around the adjacent thread on the previous row. Then go through 2 dark blue beads (on the previous rows. The bead you come out of at the V-notch is the db you added in row 2 (photo c, p. 42).

Rows 8–13: [...] as row 1 as an increase that is fanned between the last bead and the fish body; then go through the nearest body bead (photo b, p. 42).

Row 14: Ch[...] the first t between the body and the last t added in row 18. This will cause the base of the tail to flare up. At the edge, string 3db to form the base of the other half of the tail above the notch. Begin row 12 by going back through the first of the 3db toward the body.

Row 15: [...] go through the

nearest bead on the fish body.
Row 13: 3c, 1db
Row 14: 2db, then weave back to the outer edge of the tail as in row 5 to recreate the tint.
Row 15: 2db (At the second bead between db and 1 beads
—photo 1, 2c go through the nearest bead on the body.
Row 16: 4db, put on 1db at once and go back through the first to begin row 17 (**photo j**).
Row 17: 5db, then pass the needle through the nearest bead on the body.
Row 18: 1 or 2db. Weave the thread into the tail and body.

body (front half)

Add a new thread, exiting where the stop bead does.
Row 1: 6c 3c, add 10 and 16 together in the next space to etc (increase – **photo k**), 3c, 1b and 10 together for the second etc, 3c etc. Poke the thread tail and stop bead inside the body.
Row 2: 6c 5c (the 4th 1 goes between the increase beads on row 1), 2b, 3c etc
Row 3: 5c, 9c, 3c etc
Row 4: 4c 4c, 4b etc, 5c
On rows 5–8 and 10–13, work partial rows that widen the top of the body to create the hump of the fish's back. You must have at least one complete row between each group of short rows, so smooth out the work (rows 9 and 14). Use a different

number of stitches on each of the short row groups.
Row 5: 8db.
Row 6: Turn the fish and work back up the same side.
8db (**photo l**)
Row 7: Continue stitching down the other side, 8db.
Row 8: Turn the fish over and poke stitch back up the second side, 8db.
Row 9: You are now at the center top of the back, the change of row point. Stitch all the way around the body: 6db, 2c, 2s dec, 1b, 2c, 9db.
Row 10: Repeat just the top of the back, 6db.
Row 11: Stitch down the side, 8c.
Row 12: Go down the other side, 6db.
Row 13: Work back up this side, 8c.
Row 14: Pivote stitch all the way around the body: 3c, dec

at the short row turn spot, 1 sc to next turn spot, dec (**photo m**) 1 sc to next turn spot, 2s added this row. Note: when you get to the two diagonal beads at the end of the first short row group, go through one and add a bead over the second (**photo n**).
Row 15: 6c, dec, 2s dec, 4b.
Row 16: 6c, dec, 1s dec, 5c.
Row 17: 10c
Row 18: 6c dec, 3s dec, sc. Now stall the fish lightly.
Row 19: 13c dec, as the end of the row (the top of the body).
Row 20: 13c
Row 21: 6 dec at top
Row 22: 7c dec at belly. 7s
Row 23: 13c
Row 24: 6c, dec at top, 4c, dec at belly, sc.
Row 25: 8c, dec at top, 3c, dec at belly, 4c.
Row 26: dec at top, 3s dec, at belly, 6c.
Row 27: 9c

Row 2a: The mouth may require trial and error. Make two light blue triangles for the lips. Exit the top to add the first bead at the center. Work back and forth for 5–6 rows across the opening, making progressively longer rows and connecting the end beads to the sides of the opening (photo a). At the end, point at slightly below, over the first triangle. Decrease the last row to pull the lip in. Work the needle through the beads around the lower half of the opening so it is coming out at the center bottom. Make the bottom lip like the top lip for 1–2 rows narrower. The lips will meet but not connect.

top fin

Work in two-bead square stitch (see "Basics") along the back ridge in the stripe colors.

Anchor the thread in the beads of the first zft stripe and string tails. Go back through all four beads in the same direction. Exit the fin next to the body. Pick up the thread on the dorsal ridge between the fin and a stripe (photo p). Continue the fin until you reach the last stripe at the end of the body.

bottom fin

Rows 1 & 2: Start with the thread exiting the bottom of the fourth dark blue stripe. String 9zft.
Row 3: Go through the third bead from the end and peyote back to the base of the fin with 3c, go through the nearest bead on the fish body toward the tail (photo q).
Row 4: 3c, 1zft.
Row 5: 1dh, 3c, go through the nearest bead on the body.

Row 6: 4cc, 1c, going through the first fin bead without adding a bead. 2s, 1dh.
Row 7: 1dh, 2s, go through the nearest bead on the body.
Row 8: 2s, 1dh, 1c, going through the last fin bead.
Row 9: 1dh, 3c, go through the nearest bead on the body.
Row 10: 2dh.

side fins

Row 1: Start with the thread exiting a dh bead at the bottom of the first stripe. Working with light blue, string three beads and go back through the dh bead on the body in the same direction (photo r). Exit the second bead from the end.
Row 2: Continue through the last bead of the cluster and add 1b (bead #4), go through the second bead and add one head (bead #5). Continue around through the cluster,

exiting bead #4 (figure 2).
Row 3: Work a cluster off bead #4 then off #3. Go through the bead #5, 1 cluster again, exiting the third bead (figure 3).
Row 4: Continue through the first bead on the #4 cluster, string two and go back through bead #5, the next in the cluster, 1dh. This continues around the fin in the #3 cluster, the last st of the cluster in the next and to end it. Make another fin on the other side of the fish.

eyes

Stitch one 6° black seed bead over the vertical space between two turquoise face beads 3–4 rows in front of the first dark blue stripe on each side. Align the eyes horizontally with the top of the mouth (photo s). ●

Theresa Ibegyeh

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

materials

- soft 2ʺ seed beads: dark blue (20); light blue (L) turquoise (T), yellow (y), and green (g)
- 2 size 3° black seed beads
- blocking needles, #12 or 11
- Nymo D beading thread, medium blue or white
- beeswax or Thread Heaven
- small amount of polyester fiberfill or a used dryer sheet

Ballerina bear

Make this adorable 3-D bear pendant for a little girl's necklace. Fewer than size 11° seed beads over two 6mm pony bead and square-stitch the ends. You'll find that this little cylindrical shape makes a great starting point with unlimited potential for embellishment.

First make the bear's head by peyote stitching a tube over two 6mm beads and closing up one end. Embellish the tube with seed beads to add eyes, ears, and a nose. Make a second peyote tube for the bear's torso. Sew arms, legs, a tail, and a ruffle for the tutu on the torso bead. Add a wire loop bezel above the head and finish by stitching together the open ends of the head and torso.

head

1 Cut a ⅝-in. (1.59mm) piece of a drinking straw, slit it lengthwise, and slide a pony bead over it. Apply a ring of glue around the straw and the inside edge of the pony bead (**photo a**). Slide a second pony bead over the straw, and up against the first bead. The straw will be hidden inside the two beads (**photo b**). Allow the glue to dry.

2 Thread a needle with a 5-ft. (1.5m) length of thread. If using Nymo, condition it with beeswax or Thread Heaven before threading it on the needle (see "Basics," p. 4).

3 String 22 color A seed beads leaving approximately a 20-in. (51cm) tail. Sew back through all the beads again in the same direction to make a ring (**figure 1, a-b**).

4 Place the ring of beads over the pony beads. Size 11° seed beads aren't all the same size, so you may need to adjust the number of beads to fit over the pony bead core. Add or remove

beads from the ring or sets of two so the ring stays an even number.

5 Once the ring is adjusted to fit around the pony bead core, sew through the first bead to position the needle away from the tail (**c-d**). Now work in even-count circular peyote for 13 rows (see "Basics"). You are working from the top of the head to the neck. Peyote two-color beads on row four (**figure 2** and **photo c**).

Remember that the ring made in step 3 will be rows 1 and 2 and that peyote rows are counted on the diagonal, not the horizontal. The two eye beads can be added at any point on row four but, since that will be the front of the peyote tube, don't add them next to the step up.

6 To close up the neck end of the peyote tube, add a bead to each bead on the last row with square stitch (**figure 3**, a-c and **photo d**). Go back through the last bead added, reverse the direction of the needle, and sew through all the beads, pulling them together into a fairly tight circle above the pony bead core (**figure 3, c-d** and **photo e**). Reinforce the circle with two more thread passes.

7 Weave the needle through a few rows of the peyote tube and tie a half-hitch knot (see "Basics" and **photo f**) between the beads. Make several half-hitch knots between beads. Don't trim the thread, it will be used later to add the bear's nose.

3 Thread a needle on the 20-in. tail and repeat step 6 on the first row of the peyote tube at the top of the head. Secure the thread with a couple of half-hitch knots between bands in the circle.

4 Position the needle so it exits the circle at **figure 5, point a**. String 2A, sew through eight beads, and exit on the other side of the circle at **point b** (**figure 5, a-b**). String 2A, sew through three or four beads in the circle, and back through the two beads strung (**figure 3, b-c**). Sew through the first two beads added and back through the second row of ten beads (**figure 5, a-d**). Sew through the first set of two beads one more time (**figure 5, d-e**). Weave the thread into the peyote tube and secure it with half-hitch knots. Don't cut the thread.

If your ring has a different number of beads than shown in the illustrations, don't worry about following the exact thread path, just center the four beads in the ring at the top of the head (photo g, p. 44).

EARS

1 Position the thread so it exits a bead on row 1 or 2 on the side of the head. String 2A and sew through the bead directly below the bead the thread exits on the peyote tube (**figure 4, a-b**). Sew through the top bead on the first bead just added (**figure 4, b-c**). String 1A and sew through all four beads to thread exits the outer point again (**figure 4, a-b**).

2 String 4A and sew through the bottom bead and the two bead beads (**figure 6, a-b**). Sew through the first two ear beads, the middle bead, the bottom two ear beads of the bottom head bead (**figure 6, b-c**). Arrange the beads so the center bead peeks behind the nest slightly, creating a curved ear. Pull the thread tight and reinforce the ear if needed.

3 Weave the thread onto the peyote tube to secure it. If the thread is long
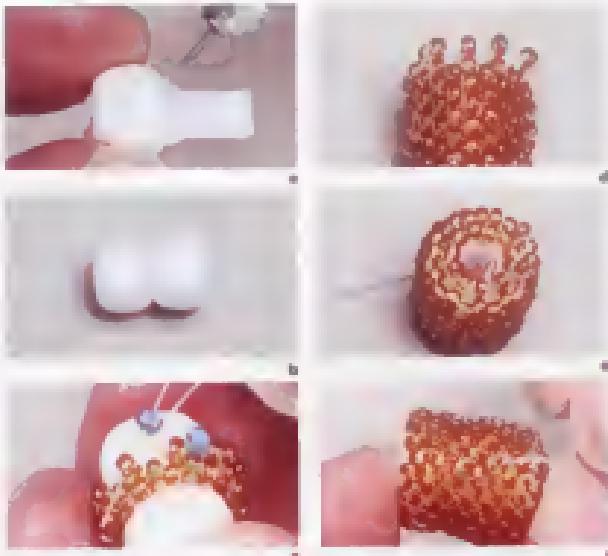
enough, weave it to the other side of the head and make the second ear. Or end the thread and start a new one to make the other ear.

NOSE

Rows of seed beads are added on top of the peyote tube to form the nose. Follow the thread path illustrated in **figure 7**. The thread only goes through the beads indicated with a dotted line.

1 Use the thread added for the second ear or add a new thread. Position it to exit a bead as in **figure 7, point a**. String 1A, two black beads, and 1A and sew through bead b.

2 String 3A, one black bead, and 3A and sew through **figure 7, b-c**.

3 New diagonally through two beads and through the bead below, **figure 7, head c**. String 4A and sew through the two black beads added in step 2. String 4A, sew through **figure 7, head d**, and the head below it, **figure 7, bead e**.

4 String 5A, one black bead, and 3A and sew through **figure 7, bead f**. Sew through **figure 7, bead g** and string 5A, one black bead, and 1A and sew through **bead h**.

5 Sew through **figure 7, head h**, the

figure 1

figure 2

figure 3

figure 4

figure 5

figure 6

figure 7

Row 12

figure 12

figure 8

figure 9

figure 10

bead below it, and **figure 7, bead i,**
String 5A, sew through **figure 7, bead j,** then the bead diagonally below and exit at **figure 7, bead k.** Sew through **figure 7, bead j** and two of the five beads just strung.

6 Work back through all of the rows and secure them to each other with square stitch (**photo b**). Randomly stitch the rows together; don't try to go through every bead. You want the rows to be connected and keep their shape; they need not be stiff.

6 End the thread and tail.

Torso

1 Follow steps 1–9 for the head with the exceptions listed below.
  • Use color B seed beads.
  • Steps 6–9: the ring end of the torso is the top.

2 Position the thread so it exits a bead on row 12 of the prayer tube, above the closed end.

3 String 1A and sew back through the bead on the prayer tube (**figure 6, a–b**). Sew through the bead directly above the one the thread exits (**figure 6, b–c**). String 1A and sew back through the same bead on the prayer tube (**figure 6, c–d** and **photo i**).

4 Sew up through the end bead of the three-bead set above where the thread exits (**figure 9, points a**). String 1A and

sew down through the end bead of the three-bead set directly below (**figure 9, a–b**).

5 Sew up through the other end bead on the bottom row (**figure 9, b–c**). String 1A and sew down through the end bead on the top row (**figure 9, c–d**). Sew up through the end bead on the bottom row and through the middle bead (**figure 9, d–e**).

6 Sew through the other three middle beads and pull them together (**figure 10** and **photo j**).

7 Reinforce the thread path of the top two beads, tie off the thread, and trim.

Legs

The legs are started like the tail and then you work rows of peyote out from the top four beads instead of circling them closed. Start the legs at the center rung of beads at the bottom of the torso and the last row of the peyote tube. The tail should be centered behind the legs (**photo k**).

1 Thread a needle with a 5-ft. (1.5m) length of waxed thread and weave it through the peyote tube to an exit a Position the thread so it exits a side bead on the ring.

2 Follow steps 2–6 for the tail, add one row of three beads to the bead the thread exits and one row to the bead under it on the last row of the torso.

3 Now work even-count circular peyote for five rows with color A beads.

4 Work three rows of peyote using color B beads.

5 Sew through the last row and pull the beads together (**photo l**). Secure the thread with a few half-hitch knots between the beads.

6 Weave the thread down the leg and through the torso, positioning the thread so it exits a bead on the rung at the bottom of the torso across from the first leg.

7 Make the second leg, follow steps 2–5.

8 Secure the thread in the beadwork and trim.

arms

Work the arms like the legs.

① I bestud a needle with a 3 ft. length of waxed thread and weave it through the peyote tube to secure it. Position the thread so it exits a bead on row 2 on the side of the torso directly above a leg.

② Follow steps 2-6 for the tail, adding the second three-bead row to the bead directly below on the torso.

**③** Now work even-count circular peyote for six rows using color A beads.

④ Sew through the last row to close it.

⑤ Secure the thread, weave it through the beadwork, and position it to exit a bead on the second row of the torso on the other side.

⑥ Make the second arm. Tie off the thread and trim.

tutu ruffle

If your peyote tube started with a ring of 22 beads, you will have eleven ruffles; for a 20-bead ring you will have ten ruffles.

① I bestud a needle with a 2 ft. (.6m) length of waxed thread. Secure the thread and position it so it exits the middle bead above the tail on the torso. This is row 8 on the peyote tube.

② String 1 18, skip a bead on the row, and sew through the next bead in the row (photo a). Continue around the torso, adding loops of 13 beads.

③ When you approach the first loop, bring the new loop over the first loop and sew through the bead on row 8 between the first and second loop (photo b). Bring the needle and thread through the first loop, string the beads for the next loop, and sew through the next bead on the first ruffle row.

This second pass will add loops to the beads on row 8 that you skipped the first time around. For a new ruffle row, sew through the first ruffle started. Position the needle so it exits the next bead on the

row and begin the second pass adding ruffles above the previous loop and ending it under the next loop.

④ I tied the thread and trim.

assembling

① String the 4mm bead on the head pin. String the bead bead on the head pin over the 4mm bead. The head pin exits the top of the head through the center of the four beads at the top (photo c).

② Make a loop (see "Basics") close to the head bead.

③ Thread a needle on the thread at the top of the torso. Align the head and torso beads and stitch them together with square stitch (photo d).

④ Find the thread and trim. ●
– Randy Wilson

materials

- 3g size 11° Japanese seed beads, each of two colors (color A for the head arms and legs, color B for the torso)
- 3 size 15° Japanese seed beads, black for the nose
- 2 size 11° Japanese seed beads for eyes
- 4mm round or faceted bead
- 4 8mm plastic pony beads
- 2 in. (5cm) head pin
- drinking straw
- Nymo D beading thread or Fireline fishing line A-B test
- beeswax or Thread Heaven for Nymo
- beading needles, #12
- G-S Hypo Cement, super glue or white glue
- Tools, chainnose and roundnose pliers, wire cutters

Beaded toy frog

Toy frogs are great fun at and of themselves, but adding an array of sparkling beads makes them irresistible. Start with a solid rubber or plastic form and stitch a colorful peyote pattern over the entire thing. When choosing a form to bead over, find one that has little that are separate from the body so you can bead around them.

Feel free to create your frog with any color combination you like or by following the coloration on the plastic base. This frog is metallic green with a few gold beads randomly mixed in. A diamond pattern down the back lends a dramatic element. If you put a pattern on the frog's back, work the increases and decreases that shape the bodywork to the form along the sides.

underside of this frog is a random mix of cream and gold beads. Since the side won't show if you wear the frog as a brooch or pendant, you don't have to change colors if you don't want to.

eyes

1 If the form is soft rubber, you can use a stiff needle and chainnose pliers to poke holes through the head on the outer and inner edges of each eye socket the width of the eye bead apart (**photo a**). If the form is hard, use the finest drill bit you have and drill the holes.

2 Bring the needle up from the underside of the head and out one of the eye holes, leaving a 4-in. (10cm) tail. Pick up an eye bead and sew down through the adjacent hole. Let the thread to the thread tail with a surgeon's knot (see "Basics," p. 6) and glue the knot. Sew through the bead again. Then come up the seed bead, come out one of the eye holes, and sew through the next seed bead. Repeat around the eye stitch, the beadwork will cover it. End with the needle exiting an eye bead.

head

1 String enough gold beads for and surround half the frog head and sew through the eye bead. Then using the same number of gold beads to surround the other half of the eye (**photo b**) and go through the head again. Go through all the gold beads once. Repeat around the other eye.

2 Now begin peyote stitch around the eye using green beads (see "Basics"). Pick up a green bead, skip a gold bead on the circle, and sew through the next gold bead. Repeat around the eye. On the second round, you will have to add two beads at some of the spaces to fill them (**photo c**).

3 Take the needle over to the other eye to stitch around it, alternating one or two rows at a time on each until they meet at the middle of the top of the head. You may have to work the peyote around only the top half of the eyes to keep all the beadwork on the upper side of the frog. Zip the beads together in the middle by going through the high beads alternately (**photo d**).

4 Next, fill in the beads on the nose to the front of the head, working in flat peyote and decreasing on the sides so you're just covering the top of the head. Filling in the "V" between the eyes

requires you to place beads where they are needed, going through as many beads as necessary to reestablish the proper stitch pattern. You can use two black beads for the nostrils with a green bead between.

1 Pass your needle through the beads around an eye to fill up the gap between the eye circles at the back using flat peyote and joining to the eye beads as you come to them. You will have to zigzag in and out of beads to fill in this area (photo e). When you can peyote half a circle around the neck, do so. String enough white and gold beads to complete the circle on the underneath, joining it to the other side of the peyote on top of the frog (photo f, p. 48)

2 Peyote around the frog's neck for one row, using green and gold beads on the back and white and gold beads on the belly.

3 When you get back to the belly, work forward in flat peyote under the head, joining to the beads along the sides of the top of the head and at the front of the nose (photo g, p. 48)

4 Work your needle back to the circle around the body and continue working in tubular peyote until you come to the front legs. Work any needed increases or decreases at the sides so they don't interfere with any pattern you run

have decided to put on the back. Use either gradual or rapid increases or decreases as needed to fill the area smoothly (see "Basics"). Be sure to graph out the back pattern first (see figure, p. 48), making its scale appropriate to the size of your frog.

5 When you come to the front legs, work the back and belly separately in flat peyote until you get past the place where the legs join the body. Then string beads between the back and the belly and resume working in tubular peyote (photos h, p. 48). Repeat this process when you reach the back legs.

6 Increase for the tail end as needed and nip the top and bottom together.

legs

1 When the body is complete, you'll need to reverse direction to be able to work around a leg. Come through a top body bead and pick up a bead going perpendicular to it. Go through the next body bead and repeat all the way around the leg hole (photo i, p. 48). Some of the body beads will already be correctly oriented.

2 Now work tubular peyote stitch through the beads you added between the body beads.

3 At the joints, you'll need to work over just the outer curves until you can resume tubular peyote (photos j, p. 48). When you get to the end of a limb, cut off the plastic toes and nip the top and bottom beads together as at the tail. Work all four legs.

toes

Use the 34-gauge craft wire to attach the toes like fringe. Weave the wire through the beads to exit the foot
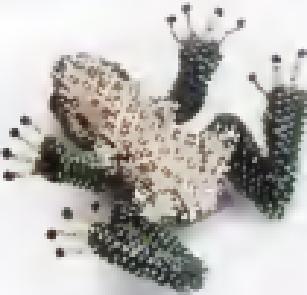
where a toe would go. String three or four gold beads and one black. Skip the black bead and go back through the gold beads and a base bead at the end of the foot to begin the next toe (photo b). Make three or four toes on each foot.

necklace or brooch

To wear your frog as a brooch, sew a 1 in (2.5cm) pin back to the belly.

To make the frog into a necklace, sew an oval jump ring on one back and one front leg. You can open the rings to attach a purchased chain or a beaded necklace and their oval shape will prevent the rings from falling off. Attach both a pin back and rings to your frogs so you can wear them either way. ✦ *Joanne Waters*

materials

* 2-3-in. (5g-7.6cm) plastic or rubber frog in swimming position (dollar stores; museum gift shops or toy stores)
* 7-10g Japanese t each color (Japanese cylinder beads: metallic green: silver lined gold: and cream: 1g smoky black
* 2-6mm black fire-polished beads for eyes
* beading needles, #12 or 13
* Nymo D beading thread: green or black
* Beeswax or Thread Heaven
* 2 yd. (1.8m) 34-gauge craft wire
* clear nail polish or G-S Hypo Cement
Tools: chainnose pliers; stiff needle or a drill with a fine bit: wire cutters
Optional: 1 in. (2.5cm) pin back and/or 2 oval jump rings

Make your own beaded buddies!

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